

## **EXXONMOBIL – BAYTOWN OLEFINS PLANT EXPLOSION AND FIRE**

### **BACKGROUND:**

- Explosion and Fire occurred at 10:45 am. on July 31, 2019.
- Depropanizer Unit – Double Stack Tower was impacted.
- Shelter-in-Place issued by City of Baytown at 11:47 am and lifted at 3:07 pm.
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and Harris County Pollution Control Service (HCPCS) responded.
- EPA team responded at 12:30 pm.
- EPA ASPECT (Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology) Aircraft was deployed.
- ExxonMobil, HCPCS, TCEQ and EPA conducted monitoring for Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) at the facility fence line and in the community. No detections were reported.
- Firefighting water associated with water overspray was discharged out of Outfall 002 (Stormwater Outfall) and monitored for an extended parameter as directed by TCEQ.
- Fire was extinguished at 10:00 pm on July 31, 2019 and vapor suppression activities continued into August 03, 2019, while de-inventorying actions continued.
- Emissions report indicate the release of Nitrogen Oxides, Benzene, 1,3-butadiene, and isoprene above the reportable quantity.
- EPA demobilized from the facility at end of day on August 2, 2019.

### **KEY POINTS:**

- Explosion and fire was in a depropanizer unit on a double stack distillation column.
- Firefighting and vapor suppression was performed using fire trucks and in-place fire monitors.
- 74 personnel were reported injured – first aid and below,

### **TALKING POINTS:**

- All responses start at the local level (Facility, Baytown, Harris County, TCEQ, then EPA)
- EPA conducted oversight and assisted with community air monitoring effort being performed by the facility, Harris County, and TCEQ.
- EPA activated its ASPECT Aircraft to perform aerial monitoring – no detections of were observed – of the chemicals released above the reportable quantity, ASPECT can detect 1,3-butadiene and isoprene.